

REPLACEMENT ABSTRACT

Please cancel the original abstract and substitute the following replacement Abstract therefore:

A unit (1) for transferring articles (1a) from a machine (MI) for producing the articles to a packaging machine (MA) includes a plurality of hoppers (4a) for receiving the articles (1a). The hoppers (4a) are situated between an outlet station (3) of the producing machine (MI) and an inlet station (6) of the packaging machine (MA). The hoppers (4a) are arranged at a variable distance from one another and move alternatively between a first working configuration (A), in which the hoppers (4a) are moved closer to each other, in order to be situated in the region of, and in registry with, an outlet station (3) of the producing machine (MI), so as to receive the articles (1a), and a second working configuration (B), in which the hoppers (4a) are moved far from each other, in order to be situated in the region of, and in registry with, an inlet station (6) of the packaging machine (MA), so as to transfer the articles (1a) to the inlet station (6).